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December 2, 1904 2456

Report on rats from city wharf and Chinese, Japanese, and Latin Quarters, examined during the week ended November 19, 1904.

The following number of rats were examined during the week:	
Caught alive	44
Found dead.	7
Showing lesions of phosphorus poisoning	0
Showing pest infection	C
Showing infection with Danysz's bacillus (B. typhi murium)	2

TRANSACTIONS ON ACCOUNT OF YELLOW FEVER AT LAREDO, TEX.

Health conditions about Laredo—Mosquitoes increasing.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick reports, November 19, as follows: Regarding the present sanitary situation of Laredo little, if any, attention is being paid by the city authorities toward preventing an

increase of the mosquito.

Would state, however, that many of the laity noticed the immediate increase of the mosquito following the discontinuance of active operations by the Service toward the prevention and destruction of the mosquito, and have continued to use the barrel screens that the Service distributed among them last summer, though I see many barrels without screens, and while I can not, of my own knowledge, state that such unprotected water barrels have "wiggle-tails" in them, I am informed that such is frequently the case; the fact that the adult mosquito is found everywhere, and of the Stygomia variety, while not in any large numbers, shows that many breeding places of this character must exist.

Frequent rains during the latter part of September, the whole of October, and the fore part of November have by the overflowing of water containers and arroyos (creeks) to some extent prevented a

larger increase of the mosquito.

About ten days ago I made an inspection of the arroyo Zacata and found the conditions negative; two days ago I made a second inspection of this arroyo and found larvæ in abundance, mostly of the anopheles variety, some few culex, and, as I thought, a solitary stegomyia, but of the latter I am not sure, as I had but a momentary view of this larva.

In conclusion, would state that during my inspection of the arroyo Zacata I found no pupæ, this I believe being due to the fact that we have been having a somewhat lower atmospheric temperature and consequently a medium of a lower temperature for the insect to develop With the present higher temperature this, however, must all change, and we may look for a much larger increase of the anopheles from the arroyo Zacata, as well as a larger number of the stegomyia from their different breeding places throughout the town. We must also expect many of the mosquitoes to remain with us during our mild winters in this section, occasionally depositing their ova to add to those already developed, and to become more active in the early spring and causing this section to once more become a very highly infectable territory; the stegomyia to transmit yellow fever; the anopheles to transmit malaria (the frequency of which, in this section, for years to come, will cause many annoying rumors, as occurred during the past summer, to the prejudice of the section as well as to the injury of commerce and travel); and if the theory is correct, the culex to transmit dengue, and should any of these dengue cases fail to show an eruption, a probable diagnosis of yellew fever might be the result.